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CIA ELINT TRAINING PROGRAM

Initial Report of the EAC Sub-Committee on Training

17 December 1958

A. BACKGROUND:

The EAC Sub-Committee on ELINT Training has held three meetings during which the following points were considered and agreed upon:

1. Purpose of a CIA ELINT Training Program

a. To prepare technical personnel for assignments to specific ELINT activities when and where required by the Agency ELINT Program.

b. To acquaint non-technical personnel not participating directly in the Agency ELINT Program with the capabilities and potential of ELINT as a scientific intelligence tool.

2. Categories of personnel needing training

a. Intercept Operators

b. Data Reduction Personnel

c. Maintenance Engineers

d. R&D Engineers

e. Intelligence Analysts

f. Operations Personnel

g. Administrators

3. Methods of training

a. Internal CIA courses

b. On-the-job (training site and operational site)

c. Military courses

d. University seminar and graduate study

e. Briefings (2 hours - 4 days)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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- B. PLAN OF ACTION:**

1. Submit the attached statement of training requirements to the EAC for consideration and approval.
2. Based on these approved requirements, consider present assets and prepare an estimate of the number of new slots required, the amount of money to be budgeted and the equipment and facilities to be acquired.
3. In a coordinated memorandum to General Cabell, state the training requirements together with an estimate of what this training plan will cost and request approval in principle.
4. Upon DDCI approval, request the Office of Training to manage the Agency ELINT Training Program relying on the participating Agency components for technical guidance and support.

A preliminary estimate of the number of personnel taking one or more ELINT training courses per year is as follows:

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D. RECOMMENDATION:

The EAC Sub-Committee on ELINT Training recommends that the EAC approve the attached statement of CIA ELINT Training Requirements and direct the Sub-Committee to proceed as outlined in Paragraph b, above.

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CIA ELINT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Over the past few years the Central Intelligence Agency has become increasingly concerned with the various phases of electronic intelligence. Since ELINT is a relative newcomer to the intelligence community, there were, in the beginning, no standard operating procedures, and it was necessary for the Agency to develop a program to meet assigned responsibilities in this new field.

This effort has been successful. However, the rapid strides being made in science and technology are resulting in an ever increasing variety and complexity of the electromagnetic radiations with which ELINT deals. As a result, the intercept, analysis, and evaluation of these radiations is becoming more and more difficult; increasingly intricate and costly equipment is required and operational techniques must be continually refined.

This situation places a growing responsibility on personnel associated with all phases of this effort. It is clear that the quality and quantity of the ultimate intelligence product is directly related to the capability of those producing it -- and this capability is, in turn, largely dependent on adequate training.

With these facts in mind, an effort has been made to examine the basic problem and consider possible solutions.

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Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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